

Remarks/Arguments:

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Final Office Action mailed October 31, 2007.

The examiner states that applicants' claims continue to recite limitations and/or language that suggests or makes optional, but does not require steps to be performed.

The claims have been amended to avoid this problem.

Claims 1, 3-9, 19 and 21-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims have been amended to avoid these problems.

Claims 1, 3-9, 19 and 21-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Misra et al., (U.S. Patent 6,189,146) in view of Singh et al., (U.S. Patent 6,816,842).

The system of Singh, et al., in column 10, lines 13-25 used fixed fields. The fields to be filled in Singh are not defined by a group administrator, but are fixed by the software designer. This means that the combination of Singh and Misra does not produce the system of the present invention.

Defining the fields by a group administrator adds flexibility to allow for the group administrator to get company specific license info.

Claims 1, 19 and 28 have also been further amended to include the feature that "at least one of the fields defined by the group administrator are required such that a software license is not obtainable by a user that does not input data for the at least one required field". For this additional reason, these claims are believed to be allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Joseph P. O'Malley/
Joseph P. O'Malley
Reg. No. 36,226

FLIESLER MEYER LLP
650 California Street, 14th Floor
San Francisco, California 94108
Telephone: (415) 362-3800